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Chair: Mr. Logar ..... (Slovenia)

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Conclusion of the work of the Second Committee for the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

1. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that the draft resolution to be considered under agenda item 20 on sustainable development was A/C.2/70/L.62 (not L.6) and that some minor editorial changes to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda that had been discussed and agreed to by the representative of Canada and the representative of Colombia, in their capacity as co-facilitators, would be reflected in all drafts for adoption by the plenary Assembly.

Agenda item 18: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.44 and A/C.2/70/L.69)

Draft resolutions on international trade and development (A/C.2/70/L.44 and A/C.2/70/L.69)

2. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.69, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.44. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.69 was adopted.*

4. **Mr. Cripton** (Canada), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of Australia, the United States of America and his own delegation, said that Canada, Australia and the United States had been strong and consistent supporters of the work of the Committee and remained serious about addressing the important issues within the Committee's mandate. However, since the draft resolution under consideration had been introduced well after the original clearly established deadline of the Second Committee, they had been compelled to take the unprecedented step of not engaging in negotiations in order to register their significant concerns about the Committee's methods of work during the current session.

5. Recognizing that the current session was unique owing both to the late start of the session and the added complexity of dealing with the recently adopted 2030 Agenda, they had been proactive about reaching out to a regionally diverse group of delegations before the start of the Second Committee session to open lines of communication with their partners and to see if they could highlight some of the potential issues and avoid some of the worst pitfalls. They had been disappointed that that hoped-for dialogue had not materialized.

6. Once the session was under way, the issuance of zero drafts had been repeatedly delayed, and many informal negotiating sessions had been cancelled, often at the last minute. Those delays had created significant difficulties for several reasons. The cancellation of so many informal consultations had resulted in a very unproductive use of the Committee's time and in that sense, had demonstrated a lack of respect for partners, particularly for those colleagues who had travelled to New York from their capitals. The delays had also resulted in a compressed schedule that had not allowed sufficient time for a proper discussion of the issues. Many of the most complicated issues had been discussed during overlapping sessions with insufficient time to consult with colleagues back in capitals to obtain proper guidance.

7. As the formal deadline for the session had passed on 25 November with informal consultations on six draft resolutions not yet begun, Canada, Australia and the United States had felt the need to take the unprecedented step of registering their unhappiness by declining to engage in negotiations and by calling for the draft resolutions to be withdrawn until the next session, when there would be sufficient time for a proper discussion of the issues. They had taken that step based on the delays and missed deadlines and not out of any intent to target the content or authors of the draft resolutions. That statement therefore applied to all six draft resolutions.

8. Canada, Australia and the United States had been disappointed that the sponsors of those six draft resolutions had declined to withdraw them. They had also engaged in a serious discussion with each of their capitals as to whether a recorded vote should be requested on those draft resolutions. They had recognized, however, that the texts consisted largely of procedural updates and had therefore decided to join consensus on them while registering their concerns through an explanation of position. Canada, Australia and the United States continued to have significant concerns about the inability of the Second Committee to adhere to established deadlines. They looked forward to engaging constructively with their counterparts on how to make the Committee work more effectively and more efficiently in the forthcoming discussion on the revitalization of the Committee's work. As they had

done at the beginning of the session, they invited their partners to engage with them in a proper conversation about the challenges before the Committee. However, if the conversation on revitalization failed to address the substance of their concerns, they would continue to consider other measures to deal with the considerable challenges presented by the Second Committee's methods of work.

9. **Mr. Pirouz Poulsen** (Observer for the European Union), speaking in explanation of position, said that while the adoption of the draft resolution was an accomplishment, which had seemed nearly impossible just one week earlier, it should not be forgotten that the Committee had arrived at that stage needing two successive extensions of the deadline for its work. Such extensions had been necessary mainly because the draft resolution before the Committee — and others — had simply not been there to be negotiated a few weeks earlier. In fact, most of the draft resolutions proposed during the current session had been made available to Member States only two to six weeks after the deadline for submission of proposals which had been set by the Bureau of the Second Committee.

10. By respecting the deadlines set by the Bureau, Committee members showed respect for each other, and ensured that they had the time necessary to discuss and agree on the important issues before the Second Committee. While the European Union appreciated the Chair's hard work and also the work of the Bureau and of the facilitators to resolve a very difficult situation, and while it acknowledged the general flexibility ultimately shown by all parties to find mutually agreeable solutions, it believed that the delays witnessed during the current session demonstrated to all the need for the Second Committee to ensure that its working methods were attuned to the demands of the times. The Committee could not go on as if the experience of the current session was "business as usual".

11. The Second Committee needed to demonstrate leadership and a readiness to take on additional challenges so as to contribute to delivering on the new Sustainable Development Goals and on the 2030 Agenda. Without a change in its working methods, it was not realistic to expect that the Second Committee could effectively and efficiently address its fair share of the challenges and opportunities posed by the much broader and more all-encompassing policy environment.

12. Therefore, it very much looked forward to starting the work on the revitalization of the Committee early in the New Year. The Committee should set itself the task of devising and agreeing on methods that would allow its members to work together in a respectful and efficient manner that fostered its credibility.

13. The statement he was delivering also applied to a number of other draft resolutions, which the Committee would adopt at the current meeting. However, the European Union had chosen not to repeat the statement in the interest of efficiency.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.44 was withdrawn.*

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.7, A/C.2/70/L.36, A/C.2/70/L.66 and A/C.2/70/L.71)

Draft resolutions on the international financial system and development (A/C.2/70/L.7 and A/C.2/70/L.66)

15. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.66, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.7. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

16. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.66 was adopted.*

17. **Mr. Singer** (United States of America), speaking in explanation of position, said that his delegation appreciated the efforts made by Committee members, the members of the Bureau and the Committee's secretariat staff with regard to the draft resolution. The United States remained committed to a sound, stable international financial system and firmly believed that such a system was essential to development.

18. Despite its many positive components, the insertion of language on unilateral economic measures in the text — an issue that had no clear precedent in prior resolutions and which did not feature in the recently adopted Addis Ababa Action Agenda — was regrettable. Economic sanctions, whether unilateral or multilateral, could be a successful means of achieving foreign policy objectives. In cases where the United States had applied sanctions, they had been used with specific objectives in mind, including as a means to promote a return to rule of law or democratic systems, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, or to prevent threats to international security. The United

States was within its rights to utilize its trade and commercial policy as tools to achieve those objectives.

19. In sum, his delegation believed that targeted economic sanctions could be an appropriate, effective and legitimate alternative to the use of force and that United States sanctions were fully compliant with international law. Its reservations about that specific language notwithstanding, the United States was pleased to join consensus on the draft resolution and thanked others for their efforts.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.7 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions on financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.36 and A/C.2/70/L.71)

21. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.71, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.36. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.71 was adopted.*

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.36 was withdrawn.*

(c) External debt sustainability and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.32 and A/C.2/70/L.63)

Draft resolutions on financial inclusion for sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.32 and A/C.2/70/L.63)

24. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.63, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.32. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

25. **Mr. Benamadi** (Algeria), facilitator of the informal consultations on the draft resolution, said that paragraph 3 should now read: "*Encourages* the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up to consider [...]". He informed the Committee of some other minor editing changes involving the placement of commas. In that same paragraph, the comma should be deleted after "international financial institutions" in the third line and inserted after "mandates" in the sixth line.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.63, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.32 was withdrawn.*

(d) Commodities (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.25 and A/C.2/70/L.65)

Draft resolutions on commodities (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.25 and A/C.2/70/L.65)

28. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.65, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.25.

29. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that in paragraph 25 of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.65, the General Assembly would decide to hold a one-off one-day informal interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on commodity markets during the first half of 2016, to review world commodity trends and prospects, particularly in commodity-dependent countries, on a date and according to a format to be decided by the President of the General Assembly.

30. The one-off one-day informal interactive dialogue could use the General Assembly entitlements on the understanding that, if the General Assembly met, the interpretation services requested for the informal dialogue would be provided on an "as available" basis. Therefore, no additional conference servicing resources were required for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

31. Furthermore, it was envisaged that the Special Unit on Commodities at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) would prepare two papers for and service the informal interactive dialogue, which would entail additional resources in the amount of US$29,700 ($22,200 for consultants and $7,000 for travel of staff) under section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. Although no provision had been included under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the aforementioned activity, the additional resource requirements would be absorbed within the existing resources under section 12, Trade and development. Accordingly, adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.65 would not give rise to any financial implications under the programme budget.

32. **Ms. Angelova** (Bulgaria), co-facilitator, drew attention to a correction to be made in the preamble of the draft resolution. The wording of the eighteenth

preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.65 on commodities should now be identical to that of the sixteenth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.66 on the international financial system and development. It would therefore read: "*Expressing concern* about the adverse impact of the consequences of the world financial and economic crisis, including on development, and evidence of an uneven, fragile and slow recovery, cognizant that the global economy, notwithstanding significant efforts that helped to contain tail risks, improve financial market conditions and stability and sustain recovery, still remains in a challenging phase, with downside risks, including high volatility in global markets, excessive volatility of commodity prices, high unemployment, particularly among young people, unsustainable debt in some countries and widespread fiscal strains, which pose challenges for global economic recovery and reflect the need for additional progress towards sustaining and rebalancing global demand, and stressing the need for continuing efforts to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and to reform and strengthen the international financial system while implementing the reforms agreed upon to date".

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.65, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

34. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.25 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 19: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.29 and A/C.2/70/L.74)

Draft resolutions on follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/C.2/70/L.29 and A/C.2/70/L.74)

35. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.74, submitted by Mr. Chandra (Indonesia), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.29. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

36. **Mr. Pfeil** (Germany), co-facilitator, said that paragraph 4, agreed under the silence procedure, should now read: "*Looks forward* to the launch of the annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up in its current cycle, in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 130, 131 and 132 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda;".

37. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.74, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

38. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.29 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 20: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.22 and A/C.2/70/L.62)

Draft resolution on combating sand and dust storms (A/C.2/70/L.22 and A/C.2/70/L.62)

39. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.62, submitted by Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.22. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

40. **Mr. Abebe** (Ethiopia), facilitator, said that, after having consulted with the Second Committee secretariat, it was his delegation's understanding that draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.62 was not on the list of the 14 draft resolutions that were to contain the language on inclusivity.

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.62 was adopted.*

42. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.22 was withdrawn.*

Oral decision on the report of the Secretary-General on International Day of Forests (A/70/214)

43. **The Chair** proposed that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on International Day of Forests, as contained in document A/70/214. http://undocs.org/A/70/214.

44. *It was so decided.*

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.15 and A/C.2/70/L.68)

Draft resolutions on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (A/C.2/70/L.15 and A/C.2/70/L.68)

45. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.68, submitted by Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.15. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

46. **Ms. Pamaranon** (Thailand) said that there should be no editorial changes to the third, fifth and sixteenth preambular paragraphs, which were cross-cutting issues paragraphs, as clarified by the secretariat

of the Committee several days earlier. In the twelfth preambular paragraph, "Parties" (fifth line) should be capitalized and the second and third lines of paragraph 11 should read "implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes", which was agreed language from the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. She drew attention to minor drafting changes in paragraphs 8 and 17 as well.

47. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.68, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

48. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.15 was withdrawn.*

(g) Harmony with Nature (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.42 and A/C.2/70/L.70)

Draft resolutions on harmony with Nature (A/C.2/70/L.42 and A/C.2/70/L.70)

49. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.70, submitted by Mr. Krapp (Germany), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.42. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

50. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.70 was adopted.*

51. **Ms. Beekma** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that her delegation appreciated the cooperative spirit of the European Union, Japan and the Russian Federation in the negotiations. The Plurinational State of Bolivia would have liked to see the inclusion of references to "no country left behind" and failed to understand why that language appeared in only 14 draft resolutions. The human being's survival as a species was directly linked to the biological support system of the Earth. It was important to remember that human beings were of the Earth, and their global anthropogenic environmental crisis reflected their detachment from their source. That detachment had increasingly been translated over the centuries into the endless inequalities that were yet to be overcome in order to achieve human dignity for all. They went hand in hand. And to overcome the immense challenges facing the modern world, it was important to reconsider the way in which societies interacted with the natural world. In that regard, Sustainable Development Goal 12 offered an opportunity to address those challenges by ensuring sustainable development production and consumption patterns, including that by 2030, in other words, in 14 years, people everywhere had the relevant information and awareness of sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with Nature. Therefore, the draft resolution on harmony with Nature just adopted aimed to contribute a unique non-anthropocentric perspective to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

52. **Mr. Taylor** (Australia), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of Canada, the United States and his own delegation, said that while he would not repeat their statement in full, Australia, Canada and the United States requested that the explanation of position delivered earlier upon the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.69 on international trade should also be included in the official record for draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.70 just adopted, as the sentiments contained therein applied equally.

53. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.42 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 21: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.35 and A/C.2/70/L.61)

54. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.61, submitted by Ms. Uwizera (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.35. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

55. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.61 was adopted.*

56. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.35 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 22: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.50 and A/C.2/70/L.73)

Draft resolutions on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/70/L.50 and A/C.2/70/L.73)

57. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.73, submitted by Ms. Uwizera (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft

resolution A/C.2/70/L.50. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

58. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.73 was adopted.*

59. **Ms. Borotka** (Canada), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of Australia, the United States and her own delegation, said that while she would not repeat their statement in full, Canada, Australia and the United States requested that the explanation of position delivered earlier upon the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.69 on international trade should also be included in the official record for draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.73 just adopted, as the sentiments contained therein applied equally.

60. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.50 was withdrawn.*

(b) Science and technology for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.40 and A/C.2/70/L.72)

Draft resolutions on science, technology and innovation for development (A/C.2/70/L.40 and A/C.2/70/L.72)

61. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.72, submitted by Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.40. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

62. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.72 was adopted.*

63. **Ms. Alcalde** (Canada), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of Australia, the United States and her own delegation, said that while she would not repeat their statement in full, Canada, Australia and the United States requested that the explanation of position delivered earlier upon the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.69 on international trade should also be included in the official record for draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.72 just adopted, as the sentiments contained therein applied equally.

64. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.40 was withdrawn.*

(c) Culture and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.6 and A/C.2/70/L.59)

Draft resolutions on culture and sustainable development (A/C.2/70/L.6 and A/C.2/70/L.59)

65. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.59, submitted by Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.6. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.59 was adopted.*

67. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.6 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 23: Groups of countries in special situation (*continued*)

(a) Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.19 and A/C.2/70/L.64)

Draft resolutions on the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/70/L.19 and A/C.2/70/L.64)

68. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.64, submitted by Ms. Uwizera (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.19. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

69. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) said that in paragraph 23 of draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.64, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session a progress report on the implementation, the effectiveness and the added value of smooth transition measures, including initiatives taken by the United Nations system to support countries during their graduation from the least developed country category.

70. It was anticipated that the request contained in paragraph 23 would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of one document of 8,500 words to be issued in all six languages. That would entail additional requirements in the amount of $50,900 for documentation services in 2018.

71. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C./2/70/L.64, the additional resource requirements of $50,900 which would arise for 2018 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.

72. **Ms. Özgür** (Turkey), facilitator, said that the link to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in footnote 7 was incorrect. The Second Committee secretariat had been apprised of the correct link and would make the necessary change. In paragraph 18, the third line should now read "dedicated to the least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations in Gebze", which was consistent with paragraph 25 of General Assembly resolution 68/224.

73. She highlighted the importance of the forthcoming comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, to be held in Antalya, Turkey from 27 to 29 May 2016 (para. 8), and of the launching and operationalization of the technology bank for the least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations in Gebze by 2017. The draft resolution also emphasized that the least developed countries needed enhanced global support to overcome structural challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda (para. 7).

74. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.64, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

75. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.19 was withdrawn.*

(b) Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.27 and A/C.2/70/L.60)

Draft resolutions on the follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (A/C.2/70/L.27 and A/C.2/70/L.60)

76. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.60, submitted by Mr. Carrillo Gómez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.27. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

77. **Mr. Carrillo Gómez** (Paraguay), facilitator, introduced a number of oral corrections. "*Invites*" in paragraphs 5 and 6 should be changed to "*Reiterates its invitation to*". In paragraph 9, "through" should be eliminated from the second line and "both" should be added to the final sentence. The draft resolution was aimed principally at implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and incorporated updates from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

78. He expressed gratitude to Australia and Sweden, which had joined the sponsors and had made a special effort to encourage appropriate consideration of the special needs, particular challenges and vulnerability of landlocked developing countries.

79. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.60, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

80. **Ms. Ibrahimova** (Azerbaijan) said that the draft resolution just adopted was a pivotal contribution to the implementation of Member States' common objectives. Her Government continued to be committed to the goals set out in the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and in the current draft resolution. Indeed, follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries was crucial. Implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the draft resolution would require political will and the mobilization of the necessary input and resources.

81. Being part of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, alongside others with shared needs and challenges, encouraged countries such as her own to vigorously pursue a development agenda shaped by mutual national interests and political will. That was a fundamental basis for implementation of the current draft resolution. Implementation of the resolution and the strengthening of subregional and regional cooperation and promotion of partnerships must entail the settlement of regional conflicts with relevant neighbouring countries, based on Security Council resolutions and the principles of international law.

82. The international community should do its utmost to support landlocked developing countries in resolving their regional disputes, which gave rise to economic and political challenges, by ensuring effective adherence to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

83. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.27 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.9 and A/C.2/70/L.67)

Draft resolutions on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) (A/C.2/70/L.9 and A/C.2/70/L.67)

84. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.67 submitted by Ms. Uwizera (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.9. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

85. **Ms. Uwizera** (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, said that the words "among others" should be inserted at the end of the fourth preambular paragraph, and the first line in the fifth preambular paragraph should be corrected to accurately reflect "Agenda 2063" of the African Union.

86. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.67, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

87. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.9 was withdrawn.*

(b) Women in development (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.8 and A/C.2/70/L.58)

Draft resolutions on women in Development (A/C.2/70/L.8 and A/C.2/70/L.58)

88. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.58, submitted by Ms. Uwizera (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.8. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

89. **Ms. Uwizera** (Rwanda), Rapporteur of the Committee, made editorial corrections to the draft resolution: At the end of the thirteenth preambular paragraph, the reference to "the political declaration on HIV/AIDS" should be corrected to "the political declaration on HIV and AIDS". In the second line of the twenty-ninth preambular paragraph, the word "and" should be added after "women and girls" to read "[…]women and girls, and, thereby[…]". Also, in the third line of the same paragraph, the words "inter alia" should be added after the word "including" to read "including, inter alia, income […]".

90. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.58, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

91. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.8 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 25: Operational activities for development (*continued*)

(a) Operational activities for development of the United Nations system (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.13 and A/C.2/70/L.75)

Draft resolutions on operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/C.2/70/L.13 and A/C.2/70/L.75)

92. **The Chair** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.75, submitted by Mr. Carillo Gomez (Paraguay), Vice-Chair of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.13. The draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

93. **Ms. Ordoñez Fernández** (Colombia), facilitator, said that the text reflected a clear awareness of the importance of the future negotiation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2016-2020.

94. She requested that a correction be made to the second preambular paragraph of the Spanish version of the text, to accurately align it with the English original.

95. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.75, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

96. *Draft resolution A/C.2/70/L.13 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 120: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.2/70/L.76)

Draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly (A/C.2/70/L.76)

97. **The Chair** drew attention to the Committee's tentative programme of work for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly as contained in document A/C.2/70/L.76. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft programme of work.

98. *The draft programme of work of the Second Committee for the seventy-first session of the General Assembly was adopted.*

Conclusion of the work of the Second Committee for the main part of the seventieth session of the General Assembly

99. **Mr. Gass** (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), speaking on behalf of Mr. Wu Hungbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said that the Committee had met at the end of a year of change for the United Nations system, between two momentous outcomes for the international community: the adoption of the historic 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September, and the conclusion of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris in December.

100. The outcomes of those and of other historical agreements in 2015, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, had given further impetus to the United Nations in enhancing coherence and integration as it supported countries in their pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda and related processes for financing, follow-up and review would require new ways of thinking and working. Numerous initiatives were under way to ensure that the United Nations could move from commitments to results in the post-2015 context. The Second Committee was among those intergovernmental bodies adjusting to the new development agenda and its implementation.

101. He was pleased to note the Committee's initiative to advance the discussion of its agenda and working methods to early 2016, which would no doubt also resonate beyond the Committee and serve as an example within the United Nations system of working pragmatically to ensure a successful transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals.

102. In early 2016, a report would be published on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for the consideration of the Committee, as requested by Member States. It was hoped that the outcomes of the Committee's debates on methods of work and agenda review would contribute to the comprehensive implementation of the new Agenda in the years ahead.

103. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs would work in close cooperation with the Committee and support deliberations with its expertise and the resources of the wider United Nations Secretariat. To that end, the Committee should keep his Department abreast of its needs or requests for support.

104. **Mr. Marobe** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that 2015 had been a year of momentous achievements, with the adoption of the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and most recently, the Paris Agreement on climate change adopted on 12 December 2015.

105. In that context, he reaffirmed that enhanced means of implementation would be critical for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The international community's unwavering commitment to that Agenda would have a major impact on bridging global economic disparities and inequalities in the world economic system. Adequate financing and resources were thus still needed, and developed countries should show leadership and unequivocal commitment in that regard, so that poverty in all its forms, as well as unemployment and inequality, could be eradicated once and for all. North-South cooperation must remain at the core of the global partnership for development, complemented, but not substituted, by South-South and triangular cooperation and private sector involvement.

106. With the 2012-2016 quadrennial comprehensive policy review coming to an end, the Group of 77 and China was ready to negotiate in good faith with development partners on a more focused review, with a view to strengthening the United Nations development system's role in meeting the objectives and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda. The Group was very pleased that the draft resolution on the review had been adopted by consensus.

107. He lauded the Group coordinators' efforts to protect the interests of developing countries and to ensure that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, sustainable development and inclusiveness were well placed on the United Nations agenda going forward. Also appreciated were the solid foundations that had been proposed through the draft resolutions in order to ensure a clear mandate in creating platforms for Member States to engage in

intergovernmental processes to assist in strengthening international cooperation development.

108. The complaints from development partners pertaining to the negotiating process and the blame apportioned to the Group of 77 and China concerning the delayed submission of draft proposals had been regrettable. Also, while the Group respected delegations' sovereign right to decide whether or not to engage in negotiations, the decision by some partners not to engage in some instances during the current session had caused tensions and uneasiness that could have been avoided. He reminded the Committee that the session had taken place in exceptional circumstances, noting that the adoption of the several major outcome documents in 2015 had required a major rethinking and reworking of all the resolutions during the Group's drafting processes. That had been a challenging and time-consuming task. He also recalled that the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, held in September 2015, had delayed the start of the Committee's work.

109. The Group of 77 and China had done its utmost to ensure fruitful negotiations through its constructive engagement and positive spirit, as had been evident throughout negotiations. Those attributes continued to shape its thinking in its endeavour to solidify international development cooperation, and in its call for a strengthened and reinvigorated global partnership.

110. **Mr. Waheed** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), said that 2015 had been a triumphant year for multilateralism, with outcomes that reinforced the development priorities set out in the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), and which were crucial in their journey towards sustainable development. The next step — implementation — would be the hardest. In 2016, the Committee would review and rationalize its agenda to better align it with the internationally agreed development framework adopted in 2015. The ultimate goal of that discussion should be to effectively implement the development priorities set out in the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework, and the various programmes of action for countries in special situations, including the Samoa Pathway. In making those decisions, the Committee must ensure that the quality and substance of its work was not lost in its efforts to ensure efficiency.

111. Any approach taken must strike a balance between timeliness and realizing core objectives. A holistic approach should be adopted in rethinking the work of the Second Committee. Also needed was a discussion on how the 2030 Agenda related to the work of other Committees, including the Fifth Committee, and the entire United Nations system, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

112. The work being done had far-reaching implications on how development issues would be approached at the United Nations, and in ensuring that the realization of the 2030 Agenda was truly transformative. Partnership was key in that regard; the Committee must reflect that development was a shared effort.

113. He urged Committee members to let go of the frustrations that seemed to have gripped their work, and to move ahead towards achieving the shared vision of eradicating poverty and transforming the world.

114. **Ms. Miyano** (Japan), speaking also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Mexico and the United States, said that over the course of its deliberations, the Second Committee had reserved pronouncing on a range of issues relating to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to allow the necessary time for the planned and ongoing processes involved to finish their work. Japan, Australia, Canada, Mexico and the United States had been dismayed to learn that a considerable number of issues that had yet to be agreed upon in the Second Committee had been presented in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 as representing the collective understanding of Member States. The revised estimates presented in document A/70/589 contained a number of assumptions on the details of the follow-up and review processes, and interpretations that were not in line with the agreements reached in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Those estimates should have no standing in relation to ongoing discussions in the Second or Fifth Committees, or elsewhere. It was alarming that Member States had not been consulted in drawing them up.

115. Furthermore, the timing of their presentation impeded meaningful consultation during the present calendar year, and was inconsistent with representations that a coordinated response for supporting follow-up and review would follow the

release of the Secretary-General's report in 2016. In addition, the revised estimates did not appear to be based on a credible analysis of how to effectively use existing resources, or of which parts of the United Nations, including within the United Nations Development Group, were best placed to provide effective and efficient support to follow-up and review.

116. Second Committee experts would continue to vigilantly monitor deliberations in the Fifth Committee to ensure that the Second Committee's careful considerations of substantive issues relating to follow-up and review was not pre-empted through discussions on budgetary matters.

117. **Ms. Engelbrecht Schadtler** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), said that the reservations and explanations of position that her delegation had made on particular aspects and elements of the documents entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/70/L.1) and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (A/69/L.82) should be reflected whenever any reference to those documents appeared in the draft resolutions adopted by the Committee. She requested that her statement be included as an integral part of the outcome document and in the record of the current meeting.

118. **Ms. Ravilova-Borovik** (Russian Federation), said that her delegation was concerned about a number of issues that had arisen during the Committee's work, including the lateness in the submission of a number of draft resolutions, which had limited the Committee's opportunities to move beyond discussions that were merely procedural. In addition, while work in smaller groups sometimes made it easier to reach mutually acceptable solutions, such a format should not and could not be a substitute for general consultations with the participation of all Committee members, as it hindered transparency and openness, and could jeopardize trust. It was hoped that the Committee could discuss those and other shortcomings and the Committee's work in general at the start of 2016.

119. **Ms. Nescher** (Liechtenstein), speaking also on behalf of New Zealand, said that the Committee's proceedings had been problematic for small delegations such as her own for a number of reasons, including the lack of transparency in proceedings and the lack of respect for deadlines, which would have an impact on the timely conclusion of the session overall and pose logistical challenges. She hoped that the Committee would continue to reflect the universal nature of the General Assembly and not turn into a platform for exchange among major groups only.

120. **Mr. Elias** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of Group of Least Developed Countries, drew the Committee's attention to the forthcoming comprehensive high-level midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, which would be held in Antalya, Turkey, in May 2016, and called on all partners to engage in that process and to make it a success.

121. **The Chair** said that the Committee's engagement had been constructive following on the historical multilateral summits on poverty eradication and sustainable development, including in Sendai, Addis Ababa, New York and Paris, on disaster risk reduction, financing for development, sustainable development and climate change, respectively, all of which would have a lasting impact on its work. Contributing to their implementation would require some changes in the focus of the Committee in the coming years.

122. The agenda items allocated to the Committee — in particular those related to the economic and financial aspects of sustainable development — remained crucial. However, a transformative sustainable development agenda could not be pursued in silos, and the Committee must continue to review its working methods with a view to improving efficiency, making poverty eradication and sustainable development its overarching themes and contributing to the implementation of the newly adopted programmes of action. Accordingly, the Committee must build on the good start made in reviewing its agenda and methods of work. That revitalization would consist in addressing, in particular, the ways in which it could improve the efficiency of its work and finish on time, without the need for extensions; organize its agenda so that poverty and sustainable development were the overarching goals, avoiding overlap and duplication of efforts; and focus on the relevance and impact of its work, especially in contributing to the implementation of the outcomes of the year's major summits.

123. The Chair's paper entitled "Food for Thought" should provide a solid base on which to build future work, which would require time and dedicated effort. He was pleased that the Committee had decided to continue its work in early 2016, and a number of

informal consultations would be convened beginning in mid-January. The work was expected to conclude by the end of April 2016 with a formal resumed meeting of the Committee at which the outcome of the informal consultations would be adopted, as decided earlier. Following consultations with the President of the General Assembly in January 2016, he would issue a road map indicating the timing of each of the informal consultations and the topics they would cover.

124. *After an exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared that the Committee had completed its work for the seventieth session.*

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.